

**"DARK HORROR" PART 4**



# SPAWN<sup>®</sup>

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#### PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Although Al is entranced by a demon, the Symbiote isn't and the Costume takes over allowing Spawn to overpower him. Later, Al goes to see Cyan and ensures her he is taking care of her problem. But she isn't satisfied with his answer and storms off toward home. While on her way, she receives a frantic call from her host family and races home. Using her new powers, she breaks open the door to a surprised family having a birthday party. Later, Cyan confides in her host father who tell her Al has chosen him to take care of her. Elsewhere, Al goes to visit a trapped angel who tells Al/Spawn to mind his own business and let him take care of evil on Earth, but of course Spawn doesn't listen and kills the angel when he least expects it. But when Cyan shows up unexpectedly and sees what Al did, he will finally have to explain himself.



(LET'S BE FRANK. WE'RE GANGSTERS--  
WE ROB, BEAT, AND KILL. THAT'S THE  
LIFE WE CHOSE. BUT SOMETIMES THAT  
LIFE COMES WITH ITS SET OF  
COMPLICATIONS.)

(AND THOUGH I WISH IT  
WASN'T SO, THERE ARE  
TIME--LIKE NOW--WHEN  
EVERY OPTION MUST BE  
EVALUATED.)

(ESPECIALLY  
WHEN YOU ARE  
UNDER ATTACK.)

(SO, WHILE MY MEN ARE  
DOWNSTAIRS CLEANING UP THE  
DAMAGE OUR RED CLOAKED  
VISITOR MADE, I REALIZED WE  
NEED REINFORCEMENTS. AND  
I'VE ALWAYS MARVELED AT HOW  
EAGER SOME ARE TO VOLUNTEER  
TO BE NEW RECRUITS.)

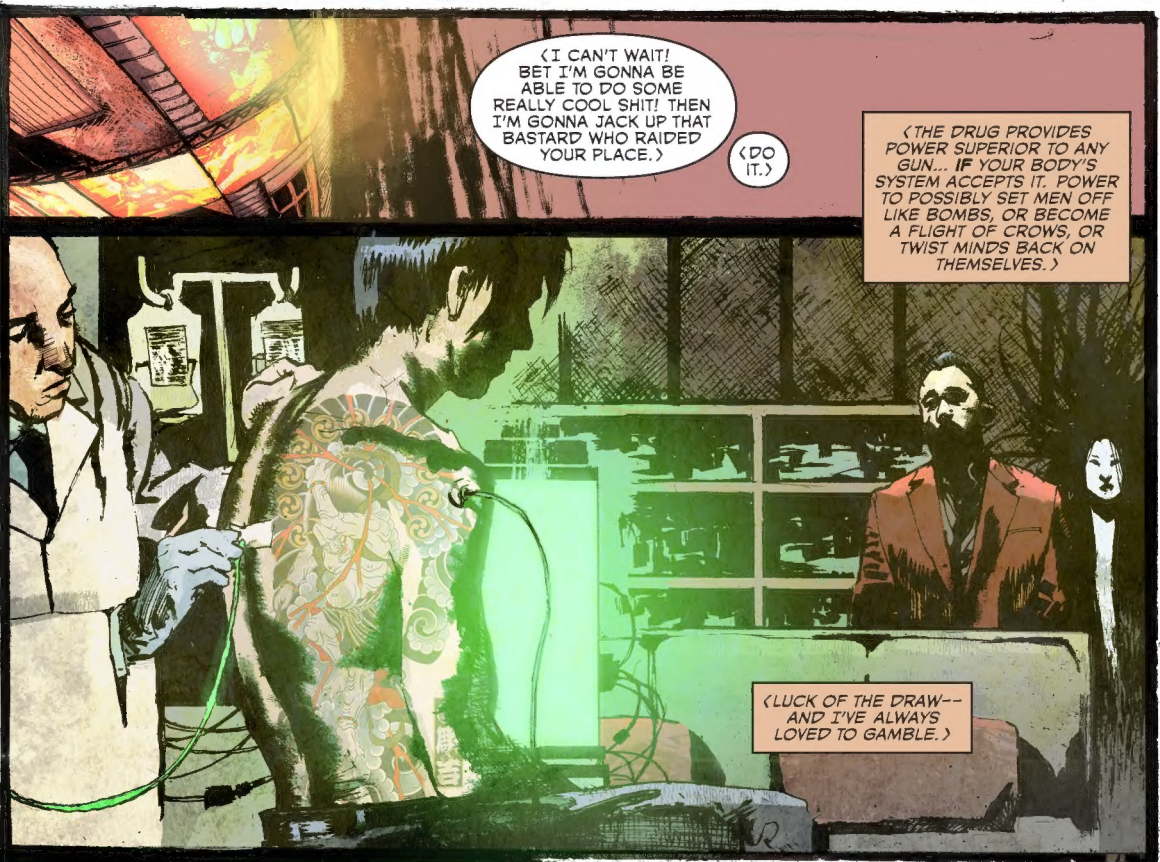




<I CAN'T WAIT!  
BET I'M GONNA BE  
ABLE TO DO SOME  
REALLY COOL SHIT! THEN  
I'M GONNA JACK UP THAT  
BASTARD WHO RAIDED  
YOUR PLACE.>

<DO  
IT.>

<THE DRUG PROVIDES  
POWER SUPERIOR TO ANY  
GUN... IF YOUR BODY'S  
SYSTEM ACCEPTS IT. POWER  
TO POSSIBLY SET MEN OFF  
LIKE BOMBS, OR BECOME  
A FLIGHT OF CROWS, OR  
TWIST MINDS BACK ON  
THEMSELVES.>



<LUCK OF THE DRAW---  
AND I'VE ALWAYS  
LOVED TO GAMBLE.>



<I FEEL  
IT.>



<I MEAN  
I CAN REALLY  
FEEL IT!  
I...>

<I... MY...  
EYES!>



<OF COURSE, IN ANY GAME  
WORTH PLAYING, SOMEONE  
HAS TO LOSE.>





〈MY  
F\*CKING  
EYES!〉

BOOM

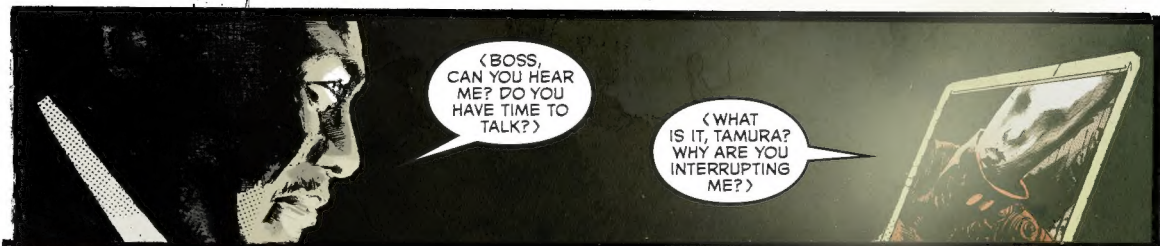
〈IT NEVER  
WORKS RIGHT  
ON IDIOTS.  
DON'T KNOW  
WHY WE KEEP  
TRYING.〉

〈WHAT  
ABOUT  
TAMURA?〉

〈HE WAS  
JUST LUCKY.  
THAT'S ALL.  
THAT REMINDS ME  
WHERE IS HE  
ANYWAY?〉

FWUMP





<BOSS,  
CAN YOU HEAR  
ME? DO YOU  
HAVE TIME TO  
TALK?>

<WHAT  
IS IT, TAMURA?  
WHY ARE YOU  
INTERRUPTING  
ME?>



<THE  
HELLSPAWN...  
HE KILLED  
THE OTHER  
BOSS.>

<AND WHAT  
DID YOU AND  
YOUR MEN DO TO  
TRY AND STOP HIM?  
AS FUTILE AS THAT  
ATTEMPT MAY  
HAVE BEEN.>

<WE WERE  
GETTING READY  
HERE. TAKING CARE  
OF THINGS, LIKE THE  
BOSS SAID. I TOLD  
HIM HE SHOULDN'T SIT  
DOWN WITH THAT  
BASTARD...>

<ENOUGH!>



<YOUR  
ORDERS ARE  
TO PROCEED  
AS YOU WERE  
TOLD.>





I, UM...  
WOW. I  
DON'T KNOW  
WHAT TO  
SAY.

I UNDERSTAND.  
IT'S A LOT TO TAKE IN,  
BUT YOU DESERVE  
THE TRUTH.

WHY?  
I THOUGHT  
COMING HERE TO  
JAPAN WAS  
GOING TO GET US  
AWAY FROM  
ALL THIS.

SO DID  
I. I'M  
SORRY.



THEN  
THERE'S NO  
PLACE TO  
GO?

NO  
PLACE I'LL  
EVER BE  
SAFE?





AND WHAT ABOUT JAKE AND KATE? OR MY DAD?

I PROMISED HIM, LIKE I DID YOU THAT I'D PROTECT ALL OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.



HOW?



HOW ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO DO THAT? LOOK AT YOURSELF. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO PROTECT ME FROM THEM AND THEIR DARKNESS WHEN *YOU ARE* THE DARKNESS?





YOU'RE THE  
REASON MY LIFE'S  
LIKE THIS, THAT I'M LIKE  
THIS. THAT I'M BECOMING...  
WHATEVER I'M BECOMING.  
DAD CAN'T HELP ME.  
MOM'S DEAD. WHAT  
AM I SUPPOSED  
TO DO!?

SOMETHING  
IS HAPPENING  
TO ME! AND I'M  
**SCARED!**  
**DO YOU GET  
THAT?**

AND YOU  
CAN'T EXPLAIN TO  
ME WHY I'M SEEING  
GHOSTS! CAN YOU?  
WHAT DO YOU EVEN  
**DO** EXCEPT KILL  
PEOPLE?




**SHE'S  
RIGHT.**



**I DON'T HAVE ANY  
GOOD ANSWERS  
FOR HER.**



A dark, atmospheric illustration. The top half of the image is dominated by a dense, dark mass of leaves and branches, possibly from a large tree or a cave ceiling, creating a sense of being enclosed. In the lower half, a person with dark, curly hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, stands on the ornate, tiled roof of a traditional Chinese building. The person is looking upwards towards the dark mass above. Behind them, a large, bright red, wing-like or banner-like structure is visible, featuring intricate black line drawings of faces or figures. The roof tiles are dark and detailed. The overall mood is mysterious and contemplative.

AT LEAST NONE THAT  
WOULD MAKE ANY LOGICAL  
SENSE TO HER.

UM

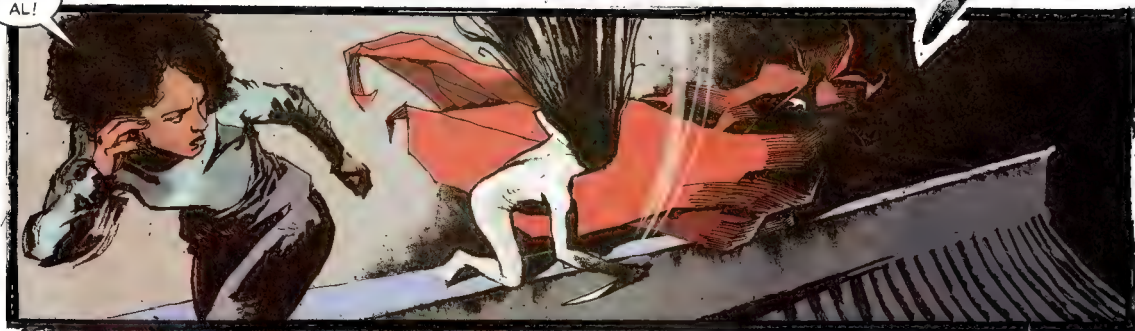
WHAT'S

THAT?





MY  
GOD...  
AL!



THERE'S  
MORE  
COMING!





I CAN'T STOP  
THIS MANY.  
IT'LL TAKE TOO  
LONG!

CYAN!  
GET OUT OF  
HERE!

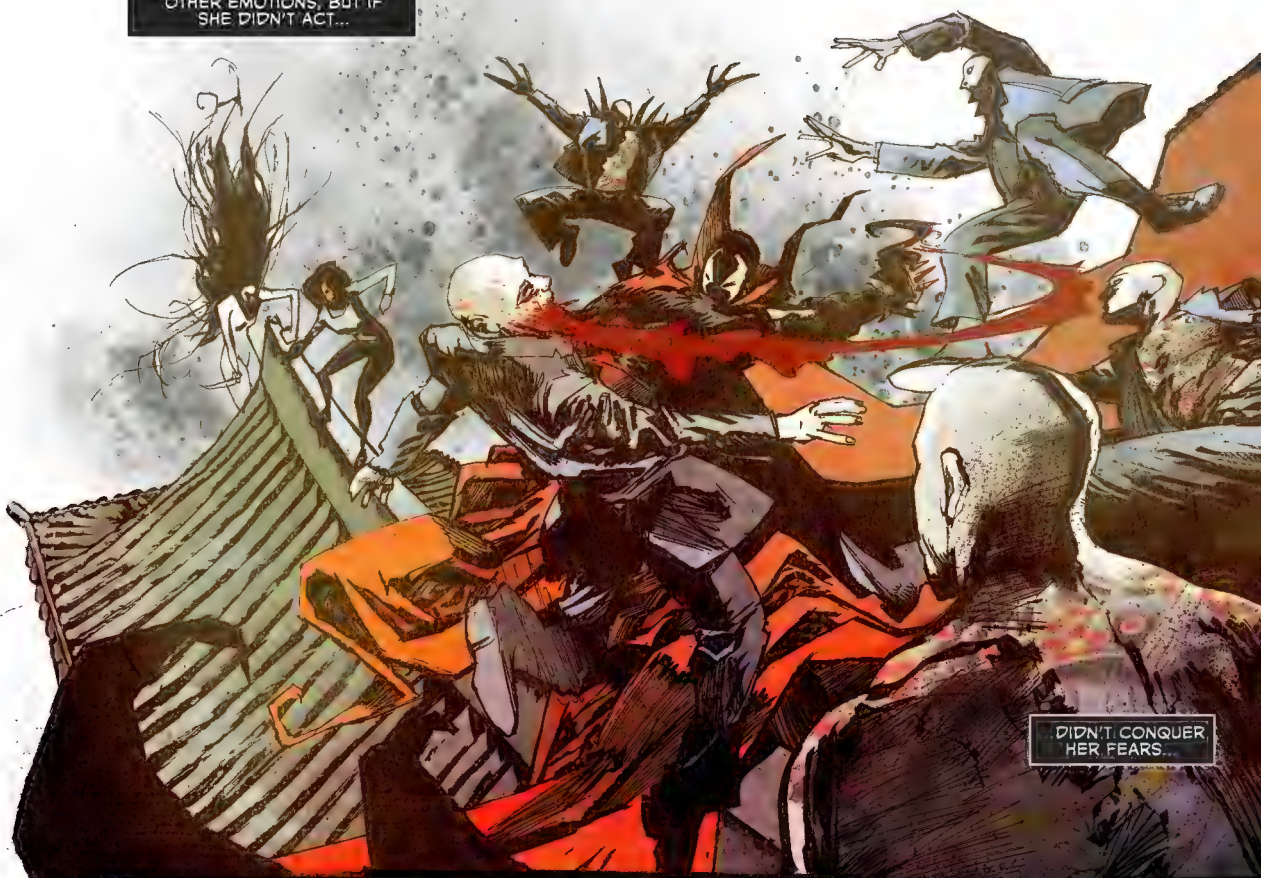
I  
CAN'T!

THEN USE  
YOUR  
POWERS!

NOW!



SHE WAS SCARED, CONFUSED  
AND SLAMMED BY A DOZEN  
OTHER EMOTIONS, BUT IF  
SHE DIDN'T ACT...

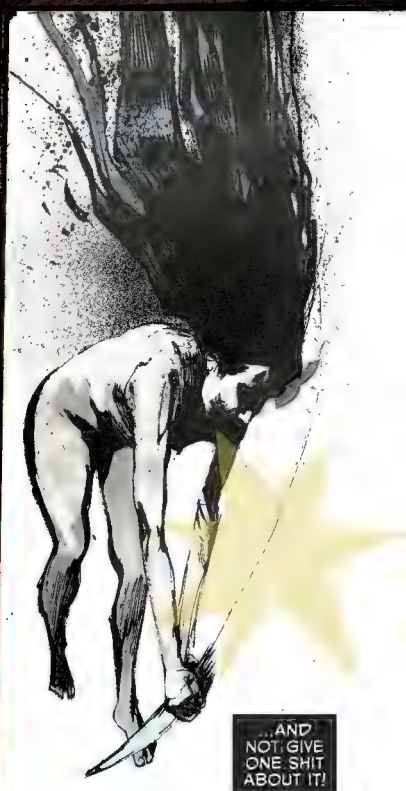


DIDN'T CONQUER  
HER FEARS...

...THEY WERE GOING TO  
KILL HER RIGHT WHERE  
SHE STOOD...



FOCUS.  
FOCUS.

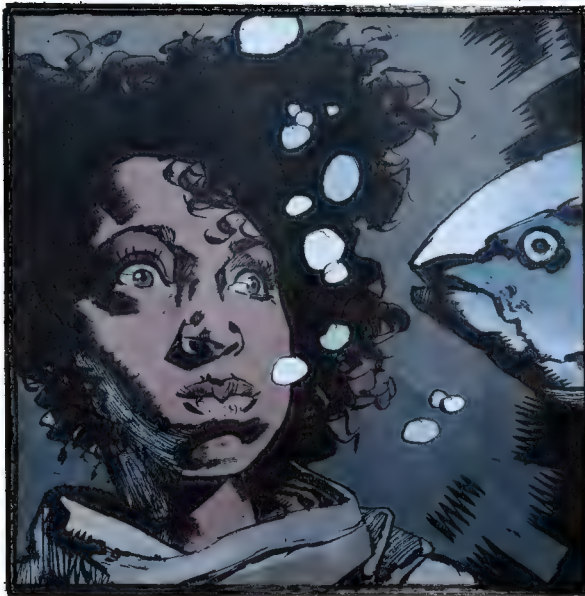


...AND  
NOT GIVE  
ONE SHIT  
ABOUT IT!



BUT SHE DID DO SOMETHING.  
SHE DISAPPEARED! SOMEWHERE.  
SOME PLACE I STILL DON'T  
UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED.  
AND AFTER THAT SHE NEVER  
TALKED MUCH ABOUT IT.

BUT IT  
CHANGED  
HER.



FROM THAT  
MOMENT  
FORWARD,  
EVERYTHING  
CHANGED  
FOR HER.



SHE HAD TOUCHED 'THE  
**DARKNESS**, THE PLACE  
INSIDE US FROM WHICH OUR  
EVIL IS HARVESTED. WHERE THE  
BLACK OF OUR SOUL LIES.





BUT POSSIBLE  
TO HARNESS IT  
FOR SOMETHING  
POSITIVE. LIKE  
*SURVIVING.*

WHAT..?



THOUGHT  
OF 'WATER' AND  
NOW 'DRY.' OKAY, THEN  
WHAT IF I CONCENTRATE  
ON SOMETHING  
SPECIFIC?

LIKE... KENJI,  
MATSUKO, AND  
YOKO.



KENJI.

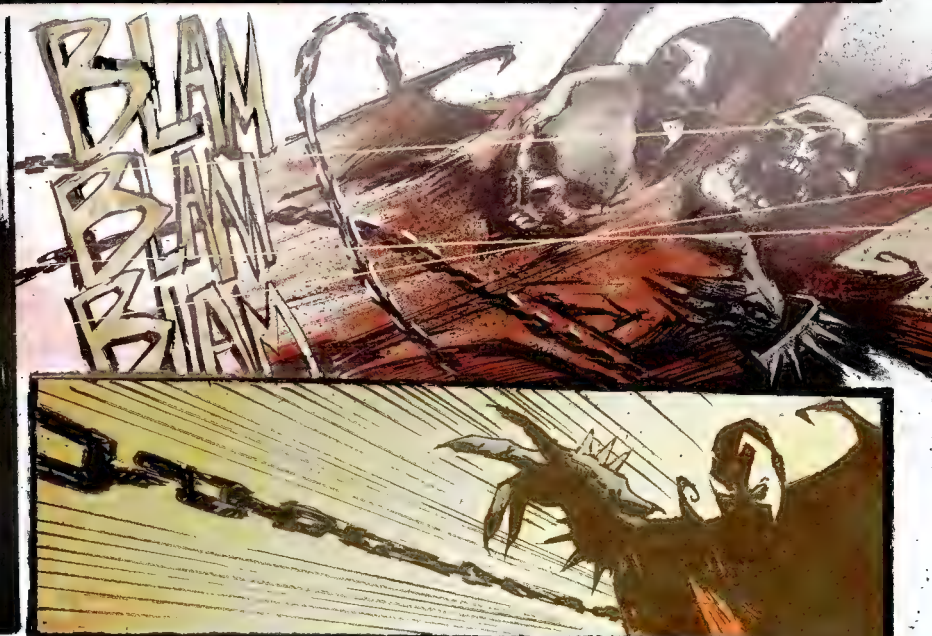
MATSUKO.



AND  
YOKO.









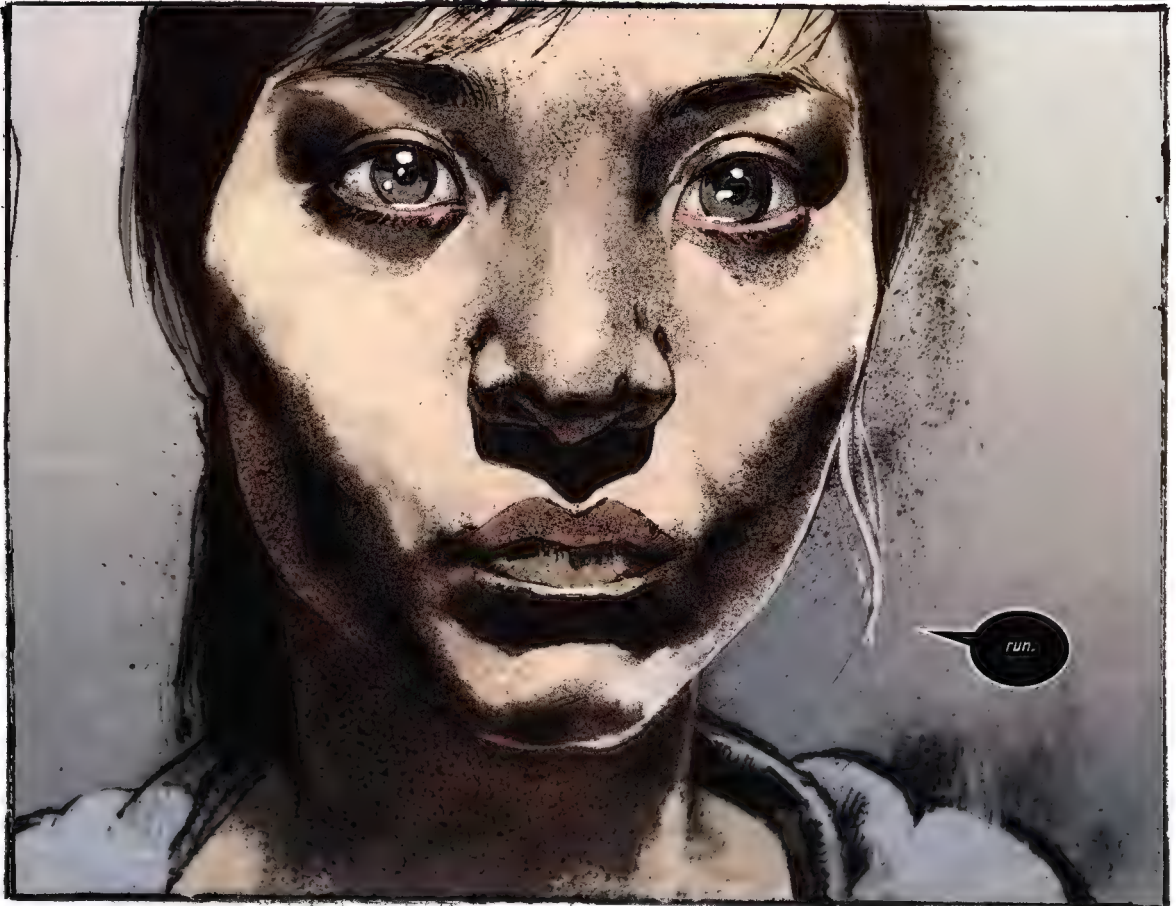


YOKO?

ARE YOU  
ALRIGHT?



YOKO?  
YOKO! WHAT'S...  
WRONG? WHY  
AREN'T YOU  
MOVING?



run.







YOKO ISN'T THE ONLY ONE  
FROZEN IN PLACE. THE REST  
OF HER FAMILY IS TOO.

I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND.

(THAT'S  
OK. IT'LL  
ALL BECOME  
CLEARER  
IN A  
MOMENT.)

(SEE?  
YOU'RE  
ALREADY  
STARTING  
TO GET  
IT.)

CYAN JOINS THE  
OTHERS AS A  
LIVING STATUE.







"I SCREAM, OFF IN  
A FROZEN PLACE WHERE  
NO ONE CAN HEAR ME.

"THE MAN WITH THE  
STRANGE EYES SAID  
TO WATCH. I DID.

"I WATCHED HER. THEN  
I THINK HOW MAYBE  
HELL IS NOT A PLACE  
WE GO WHEN WE DIE.

"I THINK MAYBE  
HELL HAS BEEN  
HERE, IN FRONT  
OF US, ALL  
THE TIME.

"LAUGHING  
EVERY TIME  
WE OPEN OUR  
EYES."





# SPAWNING GROUND

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## MONTHLY CONTEST

WIN a 10 minute Skype call with Todd McFarlane and some COOL McFarlane toys and comics!

Each month readers will be giving a secret code word available ONLY in Spawning Ground.

Enter that code word HERE:

**[mcfarlane.com/spawningground](http://mcfarlane.com/spawningground)**  
for your chance to win awesome prizes!

Spawn 279 Code Word: **CYANKNOWS**

Winners will be notified by email two weeks after the release of the comic.

Good Luck!

Thank you all for being loyal fans of Spawn!

Shannon Bailey  
Publishing Coordinator



NEXT ISSUE

### **DARK HORROR PART 5 of 6**

Death. Destruction. And deception. Spawn piles as much pain as he can in his attempt to protect a young girl who very shortly will be a NEW SUPERHERO much stronger than Spawn himself.



**VELVET** DEADLY CLASS **ROYAL CITY**  
**LAZARUS** **EAST OF WEST** **I KILL GIANTS**  
**THE WALKING DEAD** **I HATE FAIRYLAND**  
**KING CITY** **SEX CRIMINALS**  
**KILL OR BE KILLED** **RATQUEENS**  
**CURSE WORDS**  
SOUTHERN BASTARDS **SPAWN** THE WICKED + THE DIVINE **BLUE MONDAY**  
**MONSTRESS** **CHEW** **KINGSMAN**  
**NOWHERE MEN**  
**HOWTOONS** THEY'RE NOT LIKE US **SUNSTONE** SEVEN TO ETERNITY  
**DESCENDER** **PAPER GIRLS**  
**OCTOPUS PIE** WYTCHEs SHUTTER  
TOKYO GHOST THE BLACK MONDAY MURDERS **BITCH PLANET**  
**SAGA** **MOTOR CRUSH** **WAYWARD** **TREES**  
THE AUTUMNLANDS  
**CRIMINAL**  
**PLUTONA** **LOW**  
REVIVAL **NAILBITER**  
CAMP MIDNIGHT  
SNOTGIRL **ODDLY NORMAL**  
**MAGE** **HINGES**  
**BLACK SCIENCE**  
PRETTY DEADLY  
THE FADE OUT

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